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HI-LIGHTS AND SIRENS Memo Series 99-01

December 22, 1999

TO: Ambulance Service Providers
Ambulance Service Medical Directors
EMS Training Centers
First Responder Organizations
EMS Coordinators
EMS Advisory Board
Emergency Physicians Advisory Committee
Paramedic Systems of Wisconsin

FROM: Bureau of EMS and Injury Prevention
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Systems Section

RE: Miscellaneous Updates

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR THE 2000-2001 EMS STATE PLAN

A public hearing has been scheduled to review and take comments on the 2000-2001 EMS State Plan. The hearing will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2000 in Room 291, Washington Square Office Building, 1414 East Washington Avenue, Madison. Testimony will be heard from 10a.m. until 2 p.m.

A copy of the Draft 2000-2001 EMS State Plan can be found on the DHFS website at www.dhfs.state.wi.us/. Or contact the EMS Systems Section at (608) 266-1568 to request a paper copy.



CHANGES TO THE CAREGIVER LAW

Effective October 29, 1999, EMTs and First Responders (FRs), as a group, are being removed from the provisions of the Caregiver Background Check Law (s.50.064, Wis. Stats). However, EMTs and FRs are not exempt if they otherwise fall within the law. For example, the provisions of s. 50.065, Wis. Stats, govern trainers or services that have contractual relationships/agreements with covered entities. Examples of those contractual relationships/agreements include:

- ◆ Students doing clinical training in health care facilities covered by the law, and
- ◆ Ambulance services under contract with health care facilities covered by the law.



New Applications: Along with the changes to the Caregiver Law, came new applications at all licensing levels. The EMS Systems Section will no longer accept any old applications. All services and first responder squads should be using applications with the October 1999 revision date in the top left-hand corner.

If you did not receive your new applications in the mail, contact (608) 266-3269 and request copies. EMTs can also e-mail their requests to stoffnj@dhfs.state.wi.us. First Responders can e-mail their requests to dixonki@dhfs.state.wi.us.



JANUARY EMS BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the EMS Board and Committees is being held on January 11 – 12, 2000 at the Holiday Inn, 1000 Imperial Ave, Mosinee, WI. Meeting times are as follows:

Tuesday, January 11th

EMS for Children	10a.m. - noon
Education	10 a.m. - noon
Data and Research	Noon - 2 p.m.
Policy and Practice	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday, January 12th

EMS Board Meeting	10	a.m.
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OPERATIONAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The first steps to either beginning a new service or increasing a level of service is to complete a **FEASIBILITY STUDY**. Contact the EMS office to receive a packet of information that will assist you in preparing the needed documents. Once a feasibility study is complete, contact the EMS Office for approval to begin preparation of the Operational Plan.

Many services have been sending students to courses without having completed these steps. The result is that students complete the course and are unable to practice their skills with their own ambulance service. They receive a non-affiliated license.

For assistance in the preparation of a feasibility study or operational plan for paramedic or intermediate levels, you may contact either Terry Gonderzik at 266-8853 or Nan Turner at 261-6870. For basic levels, contact Nicky Anders at 266-0737.



ADDRESS REMINDER

Have you moved since you received your EMT license or First Responder certificate? Have you notified the EMS Systems Section of that change of address? Or of any change in name? There is still time before renewals. Please call (608) 266-3269, leave your name and EMT license or First Responder certificate number and your new address or name change, and daytime telephone number. EMTs that have e-mail accounts may send their address changes electronically via e-mail to stoffnj@dhfs.state.wi.us. First



Responders should e-mail their changes of address to dixonki@dhfs.state.wi.us. With your help we can get you your renewal application on the first try.



NEW EMS DATABASE

Each ambulance service provider and others should have received a notice advising that the EMS Systems Section has a new database. What does this mean to you? For providers, it means that we will be capturing additional information about various aspects of your services such as, when we received up-dates to your plans and protocols, where your ambulances are kept and lots more. This should make renewals much easier for you, because you need only identify the information that needs to be changed.

A new feature is the ability of the ambulance service or first responder squads to direct us to send licenses or certificates directly to the service/squad. This should cut down on you trying to track down a copy of a license or certificate for your files. For individuals it means that we should be able to process your renewals much more quickly.

The licenses will look somewhat different than what you are used to. There are no more prefixes. The 55, 75, 76, 76A, 79, 85 - are now replaced with words. Your licensing level will be spelled out on your license.



WATCH FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE ROSTERS

In anticipation of license renewals, ambulance services will be receiving a roster of their licensed EMTs and trainees shortly. As in the past, we ask that you identify changes to the roster and get them back to us as soon as you can.



ADVANCED AIRWAY & DEFIBRILLATION QUALITY ASSURANCE REPORTS

The EMS Section no longer requires EMS services to forward the Quality Assurance Reports for Advanced Airways and Defibrillation to the EMS Office. We do, however, recommend that service medical directors and quality assurance personnel utilize a similar format for reviewing run reports involving advanced skills.



PARAMEDIC CURRICULUM UPDATE

The new (Wisconsin) revised version of the national curriculum is proceeding on schedule. The EMS Paramedic Training Center group sponsored by PSOW (Paramedic Systems of Wisconsin) has just begun the final review of the revised curriculum. If everything remains on schedule, the training centers may begin utilizing the new curriculum in September 2000 with mandatory implementation of the curriculum no later than September 2001.



NEW BASIC MODULES UPDATE

The new modules consisting of Glucagon (glucometer & IM injection), Aspirin, and nebulized Albuterol are receiving their final touches. The modules will be sent to all approved EMT-Basic training centers and medical directors early in 2000. It is estimated that the modules could be taught in about 12 hours. The content of these modules **cannot be taught** until after HFS 110 is approved (could be April-May). These modules must be included in the full EMT-Basic curriculum beginning with the fall semester, 2000. Additions of the new skills at the basic level will require a new or updated operational plan.



HFS 110 (Basic) AND HFS 112 (Paramedic) RULES UPDATE

Both rules are currently at the rule writer. Once the EMS office receives the completed rules, there will be four public hearings arranged at various locations throughout the state. Written testimony can be sent to the EMS office between the first day of the hearings and 10 days following the last hearing date.

A future **Hi-Lights and Sirens Memo Series** edition will contain notice of the dates of the hearings once they've been established.



LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

There has been some confusion about when an individual needs a license. Because the service medical director must sign a license application for an EMT-Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic, a separate license must be held by an individual EMT for each service for whom he responds/works. The license must be current in order to operate with the ambulance service specified on the license.

In other words, an EMT license with one service is not transferable to another ambulance service.



EMS FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FY00 CHECKS

The Funding Assistance Program checks are being processed and should be sent to ambulance service providers or their designated municipalities in late December 1999 or early January 2000.

